



Timeline - Teacher's Notes

Timeline

Many of our students do not realise the length of time that Aboriginal people and their culture have been in Australia. We can interpret changes in their life and culture through what is depicted in their art and how it is depicted. Olary rock art in the Pilbara dates from about 40,000 years. Aboriginal culture is the oldest consistent culture on Earth. It has been suggested that the "dawn" of European culture is represented by the Lascaux cave paintings dated at about 20,000 years before present or by Saharan rock art at 6 to 8,000 years.

Cultural timeline

Events (ybp = years before present)

Aboriginal people arrive in Australia	50,000ybp
European cave paintings at Lascaux	20,000ybp
European people arrive in Australia	200ybp
Start of petroglyph art at Murujuga	40,000bp
The great pyramids in Ancient Egypt were built	5,000ybp
Start of formal writing	3,500ybp
Start of formal agriculture in Golden Triangle	5,000ybp
End of the last Ice Age	17,000ybp

Method

1. Draw a timeline outline covering all these time periods. It might be easiest to lay the page landscape.

50,000 ybp	40,000 ybp	30,000 ybp	20,000 ybp	10,000y bp
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2. Organise these events in time sequence from oldest to most recent.
Dates have been rounded to make location on the timeline easier.
3. Place the events on the timeline



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